

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 R

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P 100036Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: GON EXPULSION OF AMERICAN PRIEST

REFS: (A) MANAGUA 3177, (B) MANAGUA 3128

1. CAPUCHIN PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS (FATHER KIERAN HICKEY) IN DETROIT CONTACTED DEPARTMENT JULY 8 TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING GON DECISION TO DENY RESIDENCE TO FATHER BERTRAND (REPORTED IN REFTELS A AND B). HICKEY HAD RECEIVED SKETCHY PHONE REPORT FROM CAPUCHIN HOUSE IN MANAGUA, INDICATING THAT "STATE DEPARTMENT" HAD INFORMED THE MANAGUA HOUSE OF GON DECISION. DEPTOFF PROVIDED HICKEY WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION, DRAWN FROM REFTELS, AND POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT CONTACTED MANAGUA HOUSE ON GON'S BEHALF TO RELAY WORD OF DECISION, BUT RATHER AS COURTESY TO DISCUSS CASE.

2. HICKEY RELAYED TO DEPTOFF REPORT RECEIVED DURING SAME
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PHONE CALL FROM MANAGUA THAT BISHOP OF ESTELI AND DIOCE-

SAN PRIESTS PLAN STRONG PROTEST OF BERTRAND EXPULSION.
BISHOP REPORTEDLY DETERMINED TO CLOSE CHURCHES IN DIOCESE IF
GON DOES NOT RESCIND ORDER. EFFORT ALSO TO BE MADE TO PUT
CASE BEFORE UPCOMING NICARAGUAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE. MEAN-
WHILE, CAPUCHIN ORDER IN U.S. HAS CONTACTED U.S. NATIONAL

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE TO SOLICIT REPRESENTATION ON
BERTRAND'S BEHALF BY CATHOLIC HIERARCHY HERE. SENATOR
PHILLIP HART OF MICHIGAN APPARENTLY HAS ALSO BEEN CONTACTED
BY THE CAPUCHINS OR BERTRAND'S FAMILY. KISSINGER

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